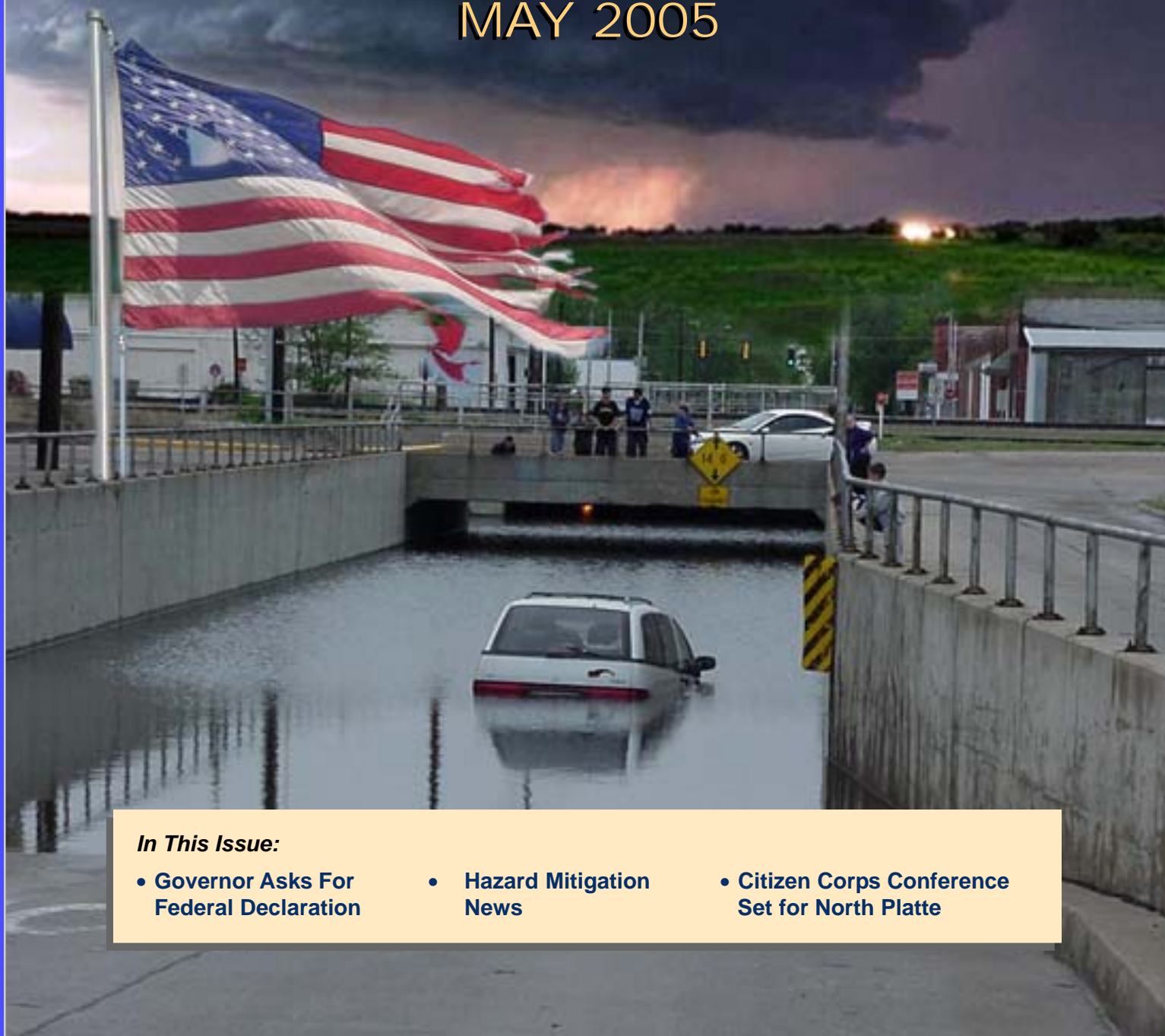


THE BEACON



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

MAY 2005



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GOVERNOR HEINEMAN REQUESTS FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARATION FOR MAY STORMS

Governor Dave Heineman requested a Federal Disaster Declaration on May 27 to provide funding for damages resulting from recent flooding, hail and wind damage in South Central Nebraska.

A Presidential Declaration, if granted, would make available federal dollars to assist in funding recovery operations in 11 Nebraska counties. More than \$3 million in damages to public infrastructure in those counties resulted from thunderstorms on the nights of May 11 and 12, 2005.

Additionally, nearly \$2 million in federal program funding is being requested for Individual Assistance, after property covered by insurance is factored out. Figures for cost estimates come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Included in the request are funds for both Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. Public Assistance funding is being sought for the counties of Adams, Buffalo,



Grand Island flooding inundated multiple parts of the city. This restaurant on the northwest side of town faces major cleanup challenges.

Fillmore, Frontier, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Kearney, Merrick, Seward and York. Public Assistance includes seven categories of damage; Debris Removal, Emergency Protective Measures, Roads and Bridges, Water Control Facilities, Buildings and Equipment, Utilities, and Other (Parks, Recreation Facilities, etc.). A total of \$3,109,820 damage in those categories has been identified. Federal funding, if received, will cover \$2,332,365 of that total. The State of Nebraska will be responsible for a \$324,416 share of the total, while local responsibility amounts to \$453,039.

Individual Assistance figures from FEMA show a total of \$1,969,000 in program cost estimates in Adams, Hall, Merrick and York Counties. This figure is the amount left after adjustments to damage totals covered by federal programs are made for property covered by private insurance and federal loan programs.

Governor Heineman's request for a Federal



When the culverts plug up, there's pretty much only one way to clear 'em.

(continued on page 3)

Disaster request... *(continued from page 2)*

Declaration has been submitted to FEMA Region VII Director Richard Hainje, who will present it to the President for consideration. These figures are based on the Preliminary Damage Assessment conducted in the affected counties. If a declaration is made, FEMA will register applicants via a tollfree hotline, and specific damage figures will be collected, which may change the assistance totals. A declaration, if granted, could be several weeks away.



Eleven counties are being submitted for public assistance funding, to respond to damage to public infrastructure like this roadway near Kenesaw.



Wind and flooding weren't the only problems associated with these storms. Hail covered the ground in Hastings following the passage of the cell.



Flooding wasn't the only hazard in the May storms. This mobile home in Prosser shows the effects of high winds.



Individual assistance funding is being sought for damage to personal property not covered by insurance or federal loan programs.

On the cover: Mid-May storms loomed over central Nebraska, and the aftermath saw communities partially submerged and looking for relief. While the 2005 storm damage was being sorted out, a tattered flag flew over Hallam, Nebraska as they marked the one-year anniversary of severe weather in 2004.

NEBRASKA CITIZEN CORPS CONFERENCE SET FOR JULY 22-23 IN NORTH PLATTE

Save the Date! The 2005 Citizen Corps Conference will be held on Friday, July 22 from 6:30pm to Saturday, July 23 5:00 pm at a carefully selected shelter site in North Platte, Nebraska. The Conference will be open to citizens, citizen leaders, and organizational leaders. It's open to all - and free to all.

The conference, entitled "**Live the Adventure**" is a one-and-a-half-day event that

provides practical experience in setting up Emergency Volunteer Centers, like the one in Hallam; experience in Sheltering; and tools to promote county level collaborations of community organizations for emergency preparedness and disaster response that supports local emergency plans. Please join us! Reserve your cot for Friday evening and your place for Saturday.

Specific conference elements will include:

Friday: Friday evening 6:30- "lights out" 10pm:

- ☐ Introduction to Shelters: Basic training in setting up, running and maintaining a shelter. Shelter experience provided for Friday night stay.
- ☐ Planning for pets, vulnerable populations, and small children.
- ☐ Psychological First Aid Training. Canine Crisis Response

Saturday: Saturday 8am-5pm:

- ☐ Introduction to EVCs: Basic experience and training in setting up, running and maintaining an Emergency Volunteer Center. (Materials and "tools" provided) Experience in mass feeding.
- ☐ Leadership & Management in Organizing Groups for unified response.
- ☐ Identifying your personal and community strengths for emergency response and disaster mitigation.
- ☐ Emergency Scenarios Practicum.
- ☐ Are You Ready? 24/7 campaign and National Preparedness Month
- ☐ Outreach, Training and Volunteerism: Engaging Seniors, youth, disabled, and ethnically diverse members of your community to prepare and volunteer locally.
- ☐ and more

The National mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through personal readiness, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to local threats of all kinds. A major goal of Nebraska Citizen Corps is to

promote volunteerism to existing organizations and encourage local collaboration of community organizations. Certainly, the expertise and experience for disaster response and mitigation already exists among Nebraska's community organizations!

Organizations involved in the conference include the Lincoln County Citizen Corps Council, the American Red Cross, United Way, Lancaster County Emergency Management Agency, Noah's Canine Crisis Team, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, and more. For more information and to get involved contact Susan.Burton@hhss.ne.gov

HAZARD MITIGATION NEWS

NEMA would like to thank the weekly ice reporters along the Lower Platte and Elkhorn River for their reports this season. Their dedication to this weekly reporting of ice conditions along the rivers provides beneficial information to all those living near and/or having a response role in case of an ice jam condition along the rivers. Again THANK YOU for your dedication.

The State Hazard Mitigation Officer would like to thank those who submitted applications for funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in response to the Hallam tornado/May 2004 severe weather outbreak. The applications will be reviewed by the Governor's Disaster Recovery Task Force and those receiving favorable review will be submitted on to FEMA Region VII for funding. The anti-

pated submission date for those applications will be no later than May 25, 2005. We received applications for safe rooms, property acquisitions, strengthening of power lines to a higher standard, NOAA Weather Radios, and a warning notification project.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program that provides funds to communities for pre-disaster mitigation planning and the implementation of cost-effective mitigation projects prior to a disaster event has received six applications for mitigation plans. These applications were forwarded on to FEMA Region VII on March 14, 2005 for review by a national panel for selection. The selection for award is anticipated to be completed in May/June 2005 with award documents following.

MORE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

Be watchful, based on recent activity

The departments and agencies comprising the Emergency Services Sector continue to experience suspicious activities at increasing frequency. Impostors carrying falsified credentials have appeared throughout the United States attempting to gain entry into emergency facilities and access their sensitive information. In all cases the impersonators quickly flee when denied.

Recently, an emergency medical services (EMS) organization contacted local law enforcement to report suspicious electronic mail. The e-mail requested that the rescue squad host the message sender for an internship to study and learn about American response and rescue operations. Using the information provided in the e-mail, the FBI found that the individual matching that name, age, and place of

origin had been refused entrance into the country, and is unwelcome based on his suspected affiliations.

Therefore, emergency organizations should be alert for and cautious about similar inquiries or activities. Those intending to harm our nation and its people will try very creative ways to exploit existing vulnerabilities for their terrorist plans and actions.

The EMR-ISAC again encourages emergency sector departments and agencies to report suspicious inquiries or activities to the National Infrastructure Coordination Center (NICC) in addition to local law enforcement. The NICC can be contacted by voice at 202-282-9201, e-mail at nicc@dhs.gov, or by facsimile at 703-487-3570.